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SIPDIS

FOR NEA/ELA AND DRL/NESCA

E.O. 12958: DECL: 05/25/2029  
TAGS: [PHUM](#) [KDEM](#) [SOCI](#) [KIRF](#) [EG](#)  
SUBJECT: UPDATE ON BLOGGER CASES

REF: CAIRO 892

Classified By: DCM Matt Tueller for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

11. KEY POINTS:

-- (U) The following bloggers remain in prison: 1) Karim Amer, convicted of insulting Islam and Mubarak, and sentenced to a four-year term in 2007; 2) Musad Abu Fagr, jailed in December 2007 following posts about the Sinai Bedouin's difficulties; 3) Hany Nazir, jailed in October 2008 following posts deemed offensive to Islam and Christianity; and 4) Ahmed Mohsin, jailed in April, accused of incitement to overthrow the regime.

-- (C) We will continue to urge the GOE to grant clemency for bloggers (reftel).

12. (C) In April, the Arab Network for Human Rights Information (ANHRI) publicized the October 2008 arrest of blogger Hany Nazir. ANHRI Executive Director Gamal Eid told us May 13 that State Security Investigative Services (SSIS) arrested Nazir following his blogging on issues sensitive to Christianity and Islam. Eid said Nazir had linked his blog to the controversial novel, "Azazil's Goat in Mecca," which is deemed insulting to Islam. ANHRI's April press release says that Nazir's neighbors suspected him of being the novel's author.

13. (C) ANHRI's press release also asserts that Nazir opposed both Muslim and Christian "hardliners," and that the bishop of Nazir's hometown urged his family to keep quiet about the arrest to avoid "upsetting" SSIS. Eid said that because Nazir is detained under the Emergency Law, ANHRI has no legal channels to pursue a case. Eid said he would try to visit Nazir in prison, but on May 19 ANHRI issued a press release saying SSIS officers refused Eid entry to Borg Al-Arab prison to visit Nazir.

14. (C) According to ANHRI, SSIS arrested blogger Ahmed Mohsin in Fayoum (50 miles south of Cairo) April 29, and accused him of incitement to overthrow the government. We checked Mohsin's Arabic-language blog ([www.eyestillopen.blogspot.com](http://www.eyestillopen.blogspot.com)), and found no statements advocating the regime's overthrow. Gamal Eid told us that SSIS caught Mohsin accessing Jihadi websites. Updates on other bloggers are as follows:

-- Karim Amer: Convicted of "denigrating religion" and insulting President Mubarak, Amer was sentenced to a four-year prison term in February 2007. He remains in the Borg Al-Arab prison in Alexandria.

-- Musad Abu Fagr: Jailed in December 2007 following his blog posts about the difficulties of the Sinai Bedouin, Abu Fagr remains in the Borg Al-Arab prison despite court orders for his release. Gamal Eid told us May 13 that SSIS has blocked seven release orders. The Interior Minister told the

Ambassador May 20 that Abu Fagr supported criminal activities  
related to Palestinians entering Egypt (ref A.)  
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